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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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HIGH SCHOOL

Menifee county student wins essay contest, photo shoot

A Menifee County High School junior is the winner of the \$500 “Promote Your School” scholarship essay contest, earning her school a photo shoot for pictures to be used in KHEAA’s 2009–2010 statewide college planning publications.



Shelby Branam’s essay, “Why my school is the best in the state,” was chosen from among 85 entries from across Kentucky.

Branam’s essay sparked interest from the KHEAA judges to visit Menifee County High “where teachers are able to form relationships with students that will inspire and encourage us after graduation.”

The strongest point of Branam’s insightful essay is expressed after the writer divulges the school’s location — a poverty-stricken area of Eastern Kentucky, a judge said. “Rather than complain about the lack of opportunities afforded to students in this district, the writer points out that such an environment molds students into humble human beings. Humility is what makes the students grateful for their education ... in a nation where too many students do not appreciate the learning opportunities being offered them,” said one judge.

Finally, the writer recognizes that hard work is the key to earning the respect of larger schools in the surrounding area.

Branam’s essay “provides a view of a student truly vested in her school environment,” declared another judge. The essay contest is limited to 200

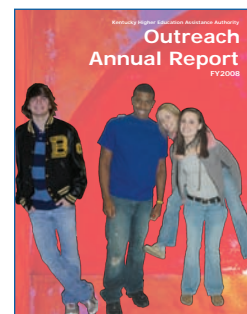
words, so Branam had to make “each one count, and she delivered.”

To be the best, most people equate that with just material advantages. The judges thought Branam had the wisdom to realize that it’s the people who make the school, not the reverse.

Branam and other Menifee County students will participate in a photo shoot at the school. The pictures will be used in free college planning guides for high school students, posters, brochures and other KHEAA publications.

Report details Outreach activities for FY2008

The Outreach Annual Report for FY2008 is now available. This report includes information about our nine regional outreach counselors, provides a breakdown of contacts made and materials distributed and highlights selected partnerships and activities.



Information about GoHigherKY.org and the College Info Road Show, which visits schools and other sites, is also featured.

To view the Outreach Annual Report online, visit www.kheaa.com/pdf/reports/outreach_fy08.pdf.

To request a copy or to schedule a visit from the outreach staff, please contact Outreach Services Assistant Benita Young by calling 502.696.7283 or by e-mailing byoung@kheaa.com.

Megan Cummins joins KHEAA as KEES coordinator

Megan Cummins has joined KHEAA as the KEES coordinator in the Student Aid Branch, replacing Sheila Hilderbrand Roe, who now coordinates the KHEAA State Grant programs. Megan received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown College in 2005 and is working on a Master's degree at Sullivan University. Prior to joining KHEAA, was a financial planning coordinator and student enrollment manager at Sullivan.



KHEAA is excited to have Megan working with the KEES program. Her knowledge and experience will be an asset to the agency and the financial aid community. Megan can be reached at 502.696.7397 or at mcummins@kheaa.com.



KHEAA publishes the *Counselor Connection* to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to publications@kheaa.com.

State offers several student financial aid programs

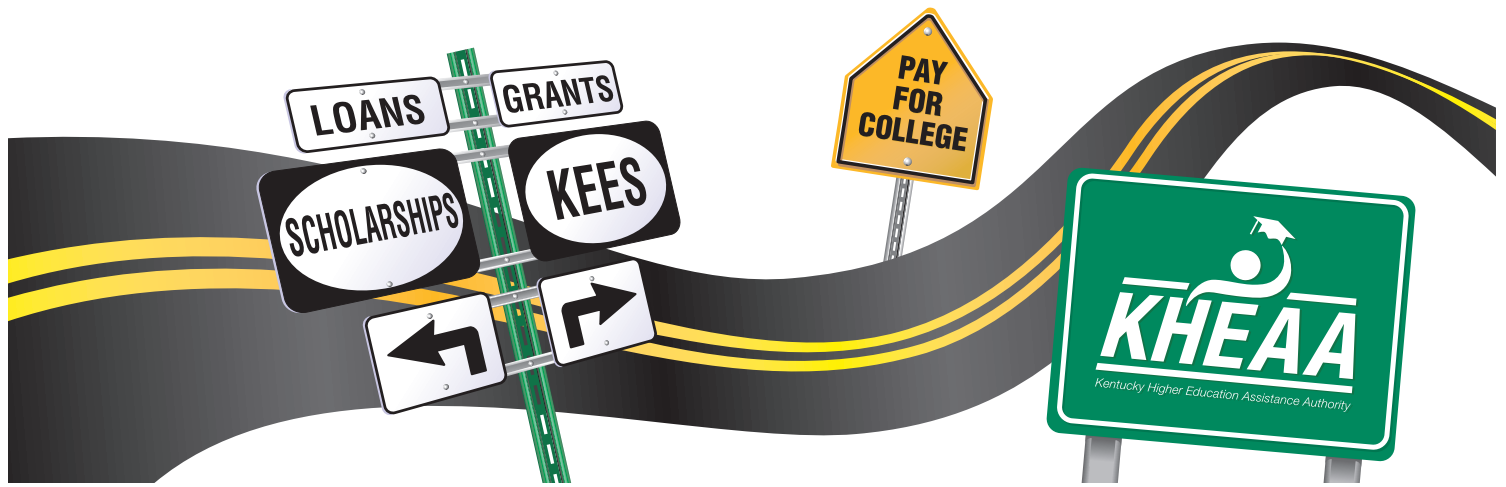
Kentucky students who choose to attend college or technical school in the commonwealth may be eligible for financial aid programs administered by KHEAA. Unlike many states, Kentucky offers student aid based on financial need and academic merit.

Kentucky's need-based programs include the College Access Program (CAP) grant and Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG). CAP grants may be used at all of Kentucky's public and private colleges. KTG awards may be used at Kentucky's private colleges. Students may apply for the CAP and KTG programs by completing the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Perhaps the best known program is the merit-based Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Students at certified Kentucky high schools earn college scholarships based on their yearly grade point average and their best ACT score. Home school and GED graduates earn awards based on their ACT score. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches may also earn bonus awards based on how well they do on Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.

Students do not need to apply for a KEES award. If they attend a participating Kentucky college, KHEAA will automatically send the scholarship money after the school reports that the student is attending classes. KEES awards may also be used at some out-of-state colleges, but only if the school is in a state that participates in the Academic Common Market and the student is pursuing an approved major not available in Kentucky. KEES, CAP and KTG are funded by Kentucky Lottery revenues.

KHEAA also administers the Teacher Scholarship, Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship and Early Childhood Development Scholarship. Students may apply online for these scholarships through Zip Access at www.kheaa.com.



Attention, Counselors!

It's that time of year again!

KHEAA would like to remind you of the free services we provide to schools, community organizations, adult education centers and other groups.

Presentations and seminars:

Financial aid from A to Z

Students will learn about their online KEES accounts as well as grants, scholarships, work-study, savings and Federal Family Education Loans.

Plan~Choose~Apply

Students will create their own personalized accounts, learning to navigate through the many features of the GoHigherKY.org website.

We offer our services for:

- Reality stores
- Financial aid nights
- Career fairs
- Financial literacy workshops
- PTA meetings
- Adult education programs
- College nights
- KEES workshops
- FAFSA workshops



Contact your regional outreach counselor today to schedule your event!

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Contact your regional outreach counselor to schedule the College Info Road Show for a visit to your school.